

BHADAWARISM

BATTLE OF PACHAIRA (1737 A.D)
A Critical & Historical Inquiry Into
The Bhadawar-Jat Conflict

A Systematic Analysis of the narrative of Dr. Ajay Kumar Agnihotri

By

Shoor Singh Bhadauria

(Independent Research)

Bhind-Bhadawar, Madhya Pradesh, India.

2026

Introduction

Throughout this research, we will examine the narrative of the Battle of Pachera as presented by Dr. Ajay Kumar Agnihotri in his book “*Gohad Ke Jaaton Ka Itihas*.” The session aims to study the entire account critically and challenge its claims using logical reasoning and historical evidence. This particular narrative has been popularized by Jat-oriented platforms such as ‘Jatland’ and ‘Jat Chiefs’, and has later been misused on social media to demean the Bhadauria clan of the Bhadawar dynasty.

Battle of Pachair

According to Jatland, the incident was:

“ The ancestor of Bamraulis, Jagdeo Singh had come from Agra and stayed at Bhind which was ruled by Aniruddh Singh Bhadauria. There was war between Bamraulias and Bhadauria rulers at place called Pach'hara in which Bhadauria was defeated. This war was fought on *Bhado Sudi 10 Friday* , Vikram Samvat 1794 (1737 AD). 12000 soldiers of Bhadaurias and 7000 soldiers of Jats took part in this war. Bhim Singh Rana captured 11 elephants, Nishans of Nagaras, big cannons and kept them at Chitora, Karwas, Gohad etc places in his state. In 1739 AD Peshwa accepted the rights of Rana rulers on Gohad.

The Rana kept their capital at Pach'hara for some time and later shifted the capital to Gohad. The brother of Gohad ruler Jagdeo Singh constructed a fort here in Samvat 1680 (1623 AD). After the Pachaira war there was no powerful ruler left on the south of Chambal River who could compete with Raja Bhim Singh.”

The sources Jatland provided are as follows:

1. Dr. Ajay Kumar Agnihotri (1985) : *Gohad ke Jatton ka Itihas* (Hindi), p. 21.
2. K.C.Luwai: *Gwalior State Gazetteer, Part I*, p. 217.
3. Dr. Ajay Kumar Agnihotri (1985) : *Gohad ke Jatton ka Itihas* (Hindi), p. 24.

In the above-mentioned sources, Dr. Agnihotri's claim in his book that Maharaja Aniruddh Singh was defeated by Jat ruler Rana Bhim Singh appears to be based solely on his personal opinion, without reference to any contemporary or credible historical sources. Furthermore, regarding the second source cited “K.C. Luwai: *Gwalior State Gazetteer, Part I*, p. 217” it should be clarified that no individual named ‘K.C. Luwai’ was associated with the compilation of the *Gwalior State Gazetteer*. The correct compiler was ‘Captain C. E. Luard’, who served as the Superintendent of Gazetteers in Central India. Therefore, it is necessary to examine page 217 of *Gwalior State Gazetteer, Part I*, as cited by Jatland, to understand what it actually states about this event.

The area of the village amounts to 2,860 acres, of which 1,985 are cultivated. A police outpost is stationed here. Population in 1901 was 486; males 241, females 245.

Gangāpur, *pargana* Gangāpur, *zila* Mandasor.—The headquarters of the *pargana* of the same name situated in 25° 13' N. and 74° 20' E., 24 miles south-west of Bhilwāra station on the Rājputāna-Mālwa Railway. It derives its name from Gangā Bai, wife of Mahārājā Mahādī Sindhia whose *chhatrī* is here. The temple of Gangā Bai, built about 100 years ago, also stands in the village; a mica mine was opened here in 1904, but is not regularly worked as yet. Besides the *nāib-kamāsdār's* office, a police *thāna*, a *sāyar* outpost, a Hindi school and a State post office are located in the village. The total area of the village is 1,469 acres, of which 641 acres are cultivated. The population was, in 1901, 3,393; 1,776 males, 1,617 females.

Ghazni-kheri, *pargana* Barnagar, *zila* Ujjain.—A *jāgīr* village situated in 23° 10' N., 75° 20' E., and belonging to the Runija *jāgīr*. It lies near the Runija railway station, 10 miles north of Barnagar. An old partially ruined temple stands in this village. It is dedicated to Chāmunda Devi. The walls are ornamented with good carving. The village has an area of 1,774 acres, of which 860 are occupied by cultivation. The population in 1901 numbered 329 persons, 156 males, and 173 females. The village is also reached by the metalled road from Khāchraud to Runija. An inspection bungalow has been erected near Runija station, where travellers can obtain shelter.

Gohad town, *pargana* Gohad, *zila* Tonwarghār.—Town situated in 26° 26' N. and 78° 29' E. Population was, in 1891, 5,378, 1901, 5,343; males 2,807, females 2,536. The town dates from the beginning of the 18th century when it was seized by the Jāt family whose descendants now rule at Dholpur. From 1707 to 1739 it was held by the Bhadauria Rājputs, who dispossessed the Jāt Rānā Bhīm Singh. The Rānā then entered the Peshwā's service and so distinguished himself that Bāji Rao restored Gohad to him. In the confusion which followed the battle of Pānipat he contrived to seize Gwalior fort, an act which brought him into collision with the Marāthās. In 1716 Gohad was attacked by Raghunāth Rao, who was, however, bought off with the sum of three lakhs.¹

Tieffenthaler (1765) mentions it as having then become a place of importance comparatively recently.

¹ G. D., I, 656.

Figure 1: Gwalior State Gazetteer, Part 1, 217

It is clearly stated on page 217 of the Gwalior State Gazetteer that:

“From 1707 to 1739 it was held by the Bhadauria Rajputs, who dispossessed the Jat Rana Bhim Singh. The Rana then entered the Peshwa's service and so distinguished himself that Baji Rao restored Gohad to him.” Therefore, the source cited by Jatland as evidence for the so-called Battle of Pachaira does not, in fact, mention such an incident. Instead, it records the defeat of Rana Bhim Singh of Gohad at the hands of the Bhadauria Rajputs.

Arguments & Criticism

1. There is no contemporary historical source that records a separate military conflict between the Raja of Bhadawar and the Jat Rana of Gohad in 1737 A.D.
2. Rana Bhim Singh was serving under Peshwa Bajirao I during his invasion of Bhadawar in April 1737 A.D. This month-long campaign took place near Ater, approximately one *kos* (about 3 km) away from the town. However, Pachera is located nearly 32 km from Ater, which makes it unlikely to have been the actual site of the battle.
3. Since Bhim Singh was a servant under Peshwa Bajirao I, it is illogical to suggest that he independently waged war with 7,000 soldiers against the Raja of Bhadawar. Although Dr. Agnihotri claims that Bhim Singh served in the Maratha campaigns in Malwa, no contemporary record or historical document supports the presence of Bhim Singh in Malwa as part of the Maratha army.
4. Dr. Agnihotri further states that, at Bhim Singh's instigation, the Maratha army divided into two parts, one flank advancing through Gohad and Barhad to reach Ater. However, historical evidence suggests that this manoeuvre was led by the Raja's brother or a clansman¹, not by Bhim Singh.
5. Dr. Agnihotri dates the battle to *Bhado Sudi 10*, Samvat 1794, equivalent to 1737 A.D., which seems chronologically correct. However, the Bhado month of the Vikram Samvat calendar corresponds to August–September, while the Maratha–Bhadawar conflict actually occurred in March–April 1737. This indicates a clear chronological inconsistency, reflecting a factual error based on personal interpretation rather than historical evidence.
6. In any military hierarchy, a commander fighting under a superior must surrender all war booty to his master for redistribution among the troops.² Therefore, if we hypothetically accept Dr. Agnihotri's claim that Bhim Singh captured 11 elephants, banners, and cannons from Maharaja Aniruddh Singh, it raises the question: why did he not submit these spoils to Peshwa Bajirao?
7. Dr. Agnihotri also claims that Bhim Singh stored the war booty at places like Karwas, Chitora, and Gohad. However, since Peshwa Bajirao restored Gohad to Bhim Singh only in 1739 A.D., it is impossible for Bhim Singh to have kept war trophies there in 1737 A.D., as these areas were not under his control at that time.
8. The author's statement that Bhim Singh seized 'Nishans of Nagaras' from Maharaja Aniruddh Singh's fleeing army is inaccurate. The terms *Nishan*³ and *Nagara*⁴ are

¹ *Tarikh-i-Hind of Rustam Ali* in Elliot and Dowson, Vol. VIII (New Delhi: 2001), 53

² Ashirbad Lal Shrivatava, *Akbar The Great*, Volume 2, 143.

³ The Nishan, or flag, represented the honor, identity, and reputation of the unit or nation. Soldiers were expected to defend it with their lives, as losing the flag in battle brought great disgrace to the regiment.

⁴ A large kettle drum, was historically used to issue commands, regulate marching pace, and signal specific actions to troops across the battlefield, where individual voices might be lost in the chaos.

- distinct and unrelated; the phrase ‘Nishans of Nagaras’ has no historical or military meaning and reflects a conceptual misunderstanding.
9. Finally, Dr. Agnihotri concludes that after the Pachair war, no powerful ruler remained south of the Chambal River who could challenge Rana Bhim Singh. However, historical evidence shows that the Raja of Bhadawar later fought against Mahadji Shinde (Scindia) at Salbai for six months in 1751 A.D.⁵ In contrast, the descendants of Rana Bhim Singh were captured and imprisoned by Mahadji, contradicting Agnihotri’s conclusion.
 10. Another claim asserts that the ancestor of the Bamrauliyas, Jagdeo Singh, migrated from Agra and settled at Bhind, where he is said to have constructed a fort at Gohad in Samvat 1680 (1623 A.D.). However, this assertion does not withstand scrutiny when examined against established historical evidence. Bhind, as an organized settlement, is generally attributed to the foundation laid in the reign of the Maharaja of Bhadawar, Badan Singh (1644-54 A.D)⁶, thereby rendering the earlier presence of Jagdeo Singh at Bhind historically questionable.
 11. Furthermore, Dr. Agnihotri’s chronology contains an additional inconsistency. In 1623 A.D., the reigning ruler of Bhadawar was Maharaja Kishan Singh, who governed from Hathkant. During this period, Ater had not yet been established, as its foundation belongs to a later phase in the political development of the region. These discrepancies collectively indicate a lack of chronological coherence in the claim and call for a more critical reassessment grounded in verifiable historical sources.

Conclusion

The narrative presented by Dr. Ajay Kumar Agnihotri regarding the so-called Battle of Pachera (1737 A.D.) lacks historical credibility and evidential support. His claims are based primarily on personal interpretation rather than contemporary or verifiable sources. Several chronological, geographical, and factual inconsistencies - such as the incorrect dating of events, the implausible independence of Bhim Singh under Peshwa Bajirao, and the misrepresentation of military terms further weaken the authenticity of his account. On the contrary, available historical records, including the *Gwalior State Gazetteer*, clearly indicate that the Bhadauria Rajputs defeated Rana Bhim Singh and not the other way around. Therefore, Dr. Agnihotri’s version of events cannot be accepted as a reliable historical account but must instead be viewed as a speculative narrative lacking factual foundation.

⁵ V.S Krishnan, *Madhya Pradesh District Gazetteer: Gwalior*, (Published 1965), 375; C. E. Luard, *Gwalior State Gazetteer*, Volume 1, 285

⁶ Tripurdaman Singh, *Imperial Sovereignty And Local Politics*, 61